March 11, 1964

Dear Toni,

Your letter of March 8 and mine of March 5 must have crossed in the mail. Yours arrived today, and I was very happy to get its news, except for the item about the fractured wrist. A little over a year ago I had my wright hand and forearm in only a half caste and even with the use of the fingers I found it awkward. I hope you soon recover, without too much pain and trouble.

The idea of the book on how when and why we did what is appealing. Before I can say yes to the part that involves the helicopters (rather than the SST and the sonic boom) I'll have to get the okay of my lawyer. We had our meeting at the Pentagon yesterday and as we suspected the Army was dishonest and apparently wants to throw the whole thing into court. My lawyer (Edward Bennett Williams, with Philip Taft, nephew of the Senator and grandson of the President doing the actual work) believes it may be to our interest to file suit as soon as we can. I will do what he says. By coincidence, last week I told him of an offer over a year ago of $5,000.00 to do the incredible piece for the Saturday Evening Post, which I turned down because settlement on an amicable basis was more to my interest. He did not disapprove and was interested. The offer came to me from Dave Polland, a Washington publicist of great competence and high repute. If the Army forces us to sue, obviously I will want to do the story, will urgently need the income, and would prefer at least part of it in a magazine piece. You have no idea what really is involved, or who. Two presidents, two heads of State, incorrect map marking, completely irresponsible flying and supervisors who deliberately give prohibited instructions and then protect the pilots by joining in falsehoods - an unbelievable history of over seven years without real respite and effecting our financial and personal ruin. I would like to talk to you about this and other possible contents when you health and time permit. I would like to do it, but I'd rather do the animal book first. That appeals to me very much, and I believe I told you I always planned one entitled "Geese are the Craziest People". There are other I hope charming stories about our goats, cattle, cats and dogs that might fit the first book mentioned in your letter. Also, of course, ducks and chickens. and people.

On Oskar, if you look at the covering letter you will find the title you selected is one I had first thought of and for the reason stated abandoned. By all means use it. In writing the piece I believe I did it so the barrel part could be removed easily. I had that in mind, if it turned out as you say. A friend has my carbon and is reading it, a piece at a time, to Ralph and his brother David. As a matter of fact, I had just begun another goose story for you, on my un-noble Roman, Roberto and his wives, Ingred and Das. The legal problems stopped me. I am glad you liked it. When you can tell me more about the animal book - for one thing, I presume there is a deadline- I am anxious to year it. The story of Roberto et al I presume you can deduce in essence from the name. When you write me again, let me know what you think of this title: "The Un-Noblest Roman of Them All".

If there is any way the cooking story can be used, in addition to the obvious reasons I'd desire it very much. These are fine people who were wonderful to my wife when she was in bad shape and needed a lift, and I want to do whatever I can to help them. Is

it possible as a picture story, if we can get enough decent pictures from the past? Whether or not this can be done, how about one about this year's cooking and champions?

After you first wrote me about titles, I went through the file and suggested one for each that had been mailed untitled. I hope I didn't miss any. It is too late tonight to recheck and I have to go to Washington the coming two days, but this weekend I'll double hheck and send suggestions for any that are missing.

If the lawyer doesn't load me down with more work for this weekend I'm going to try and finish Roberto.

I have arranged for pictures of the fire department supper, which is Saturday night, but I dont know how professional they will be.

The ideas of both books appeal to me very much. Thinking about them all day seriously interfered with my attempted concentration on other matters. I would very much like to do them both and, of course, am anxious to be able to discuss both with you and possibly the editor you mentioned. I have been trying to think who could be connected with a house that does both books and magazines. All I could think of was Harpers, and I know Jack Fischer is in the orient. Besides, he would certainly remember me because we were good, if not intimate friends during the Roosevelt days and I just missed him in New York the week I saw you.

Take care of your wrist. Hope It knits well and fast.

Sincerely yours,